



The New River Improvement Project



A Project of the California Mexico Border Relations Council and the City of Calexico

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

California Department of Toxic Substances Control
El Centro Field Office
627 Wake Ave.
El Centro, 92243

Thursday, April 28, 2011
2:00 PM

DRAFT Meeting Notes

1. **Welcome and Introductions.** New River Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Co-Chair Jose Angel (Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board) called the meeting to order. In attendance were the following committee members /designees/alternates: Logn Raub (Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board), Linsey Dale (Imperial County Farm Bureau), Ema Rosa Silva (Vecinos de Calexico/Calexico New River Committee), Miguel Figueroa (Calexico New River Committee), Rebecca Terrazas-Baxter (Office of Assemblymember V. Manuel Perez), Steve Charlton (Imperial Irrigation District), Roger Vintze (Department of Toxic Substances Control, Imperial County CUPA), M.E. "Red" Martinez (Colorado River Basin Regional Water Control Board Member), Andy Horne (County of Imperial), Al (?), Nancy (?). Participating by phone: Rebecca Little Owl (International Water and Boundary Commission), Kevin A. Wohlmutter (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers), John McCaull (Consultant), Frank Gonzalez (Cal Trans), Daniel Garza (California Environmental Protection Agency), Jon Ballard (US General Services Administration), Luis Olmedo (Comite Civico), Anna Morales (International Boundary and Water Commission, Yuma Office).
2. **TAC Chair Update.** Co-Chair Jose Angel informed the TAC that UC Davis (Jeff Loux & Gene Crumley) will be conducting interviews with TAC members in the coming days, if they haven't already. Jose also explained the new timeline for the TAC developed by UC Davis.
3. **Progress Reports.**
 - a. **Impairments.** Jose Angel (Co-Chair). Workgroup is finalizing work and breaking down impairments into four regions. The staff report is about 95% done and should be finished by the end of next week (May 5, 2011). Jose will send the report out to TAC members and asked for comments on the final report. Logan Raub (Colorado River Basin Region Water Quality Control Board) explained that the workgroup is struggling somewhat with addressing "predicted impairments" along the New River. Frank Gonzales (CalTrans) provided an update on the Hydrology report, which only needs minor adjustments.

- b. **Remediation.** Steve Charlton (Co-Chair). The workgroups has accomplished a large portion of the goals set forth by the TAC. Steve presented the work that the group has completed thus far, including a layout of wetland proposals and research done by the Nolte Consulting Group (contracted by the IID). The wetlands would first address the water quality of the New River, specifically the bacteria levels and the sediment loads. Current wetlands have reduced almost 99.9% of the harmful bacteria levels of the water diverted. Steve explained that wetlands will need to address different issues at different parts of the river.
 - i. **Miguel Figueroa (Calexico New River Committee) made a motion to direct the Remediation Workgroup to accept Wetlands as a remediation option(s) and to include with greater detail, this type of project(s) in their final report. *Motion carried with no objections.***
 - c. **Visioning.** Miguel Figueroa (Co-Chair). Miguel gave a presentation on the vision for a river parkway along the New River from the International Boundary to the All-American Canal. The final vision was required by Federal statute to design a "River Parkway with Bicycle Paths." The vision plan incorporates encasing the river as it flows along the Westside of the town of Calexico. Jose stated that encasement along the this portion of the river would remediate many of the health and odor problems for the Calexico residents. Jose also stated that the final strategic plan and symposium will address the fact that each segment of the New River has different impairments, and each impairment has different options for remediation.
 - i. **Steve Charlton made a motion, Linsey Dale seconded, to direct the Visioning Workgroup to set as a priority, encasement options from the International Boundary until it crosses the All-American Canal. *Motion carried with no objections.***
4. **Next TAC Meeting Dates (Unless otherwise noted, all meetings will be held at DTSC's El Centro Office)**
- a. *May 5, 2011: 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM*
 - i. Gene and Jeff from UC Davis will be conducting interviews on May 5 & May 6.
 - b. *May 18, 2011: 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM* – To finalize working drafts from Workgroups
 - c. *June 2, 2011: 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM*
 - d. *June 16, 2011: 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM*